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- [Main page](#)  
[Contents](#)  
[Current events](#)  
[Random article](#)  
[About Wikipedia](#)  
[Contact us](#)  
[Donate](#)

## Contribute

- Help
- Learn to edit
- Community portal
- Recent changes
- Upload file

## Tools

- [What links here](#)
- [Related changes](#)
- [Special pages](#)
- [Permanent link](#)
- [Page information](#)
- [Cite this page](#)
- [Wikidata item](#)

Print/export

- [Download as PDF](#)  
[Printable version](#)

## Languages



 Add links



## Article

## Talk

Read

[Edit source](#)[View history](#)

Search Wikipedia



# Sir John Riddell, 13th Baronet

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**Sir John Charles Buchanan Riddell, 13th Baronet**, **KCVO DL FRSA** (3 January 1934 – 24 July 2010)<sup>[1]</sup> was **Private Secretary to the Prince of Wales** from 1985 to 1990. He was **Lord Lieutenant of Northumberland** from 2000 to 2009.<sup>[2][3][4]</sup>

Riddell was born at [Hepple, Northumberland](#).<sup>[5]</sup> He succeeded to the [Baronetcy of Riddell of Riddell](#) as an infant, on the death of [his father](#) in 1934. The family seat at Whitefield House, Hepple was bought by his ancestor Sir John Buchanan Riddell (1796–1822) from the [Duke of Portland](#) in 1804.

Riddell was educated at [Eton College](#) and [Christ Church, Oxford](#),<sup>[4]</sup> and served briefly as a [Second Lieutenant](#) in the [King's Royal Rifle Corps](#) (1952–54) before qualifying as a [chartered accountant](#).<sup>[6]</sup>

In 1969 he married Sarah, daughter of [Baron Richardson of Duntisbourne](#), who bore him three sons between 1974 and 1982.<sup>[6]</sup>

Riddell worked with the [International Bank for Reconstruction and Development](#) in [Washington](#) from 1969 to 1971. He was associate director of [First Boston Corp](#) from 1972 to 1975, and director of First Boston (Europe) Ltd from 1975 to 1978. From 1978 to 1985 he was director of [CS First Boston](#), to which he returned as deputy chairman from 1990 to 1995.<sup>[5][6]</sup>

Sir John held other directorships, including of the [Northumbrian Water Group](#) (1992–?)<sup>[*specify*]</sup> and the [Northern Rock Building Society](#) (1981–1985 and 2000–2004)<sup>[7]</sup> (deputy chairman from 1992). He was trustee of [The Frank Buttle Trust](#) from 1981 to 1987, a member of the [Bloomsbury District Health Authority](#) from 1982 to 1985, and deputy chairman of the [Independent Broadcasting Authority](#) (IBA) from 1981 to 1985.<sup>[8]</sup> He became an executive director of MC Securities Ltd in 1995.<sup>[5]</sup>




















He was appointed Private Secretary to the [Prince](#) and [Princess of Wales](#) in September 1985, and resigned on 31 May 1990.<sup>[9]</sup> He was also [Treasurer](#) to the Prince and Princess of Wales from 1986 to 1990, and member of the [Prince's Council](#)<sup>[*clarification needed*]</sup> from 1985 to 1989.<sup>[6]</sup> He was an Extra [Equerry](#) from 1990 until his death.<sup>[9]</sup>

Riddell was appointed Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (CVO) in 1990 on his retirement as Private Secretary. He was made a Knight of the [Venerable Order of Saint John](#) in 2002.<sup>[10]</sup> He was appointed a [Deputy Lieutenant](#) of Northumberland in 1990 and became Lord Lieutenant in 2000, stepping down in 2009.<sup>[1]</sup> He was also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA) from 1990. He was promoted Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (KCVO) in the 2009 New Year Honours.<sup>[11]</sup>

Riddell died on 24 July 2010, at [Rothbury Community Hospital](#), Northumberland, aged 76.<sup>[5]</sup> His eldest son Walter John Buchanan Riddell inherited the baronetcy.<sup>[6]</sup>

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<div>Preceded by</div> <div><b>The Viscount Ridley</b></div>	<div><b>Lord Lieutenant of Northumberland</b></div> <div>2000–2009</div>	<div>Succeeded by</div> <div><b>The Duchess of Northumberland</b></div>
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Categories: [1934 births](#) | [2010 deaths](#) | [Baronets in the Baronetage of Nova Scotia](#) | [People educated at Eton College](#) | [Alumni of Christ Church, Oxford](#) | [King's Royal Rifle Corps officers](#) | [Knights Commander of the Royal Victorian Order](#) | [Knights of the Order of St John](#) | [Deputy Lieutenants of Northumberland](#) | [Lord-Lieutenants of Northumberland](#) | [Members of the Household of the Prince of Wales](#)

This page was last edited on 19 March 2021, at 23:29.

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